



Large maps and colourful squares: Teaching climate models through dialogue and play

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The class sat on and around the large map I had just rolled out on the floor. Next to me there were boxes of different coloured squares; one box with large squares and one box with small. What was this all about?

This presentation will introduce how artists and climate researchers collaborated to design and produce an exciting way to teach school children about climate models through dialogue and play.

Through several iterations, the project team finally landed on a concept, which brings children and climate researchers together around a large map we place on the floor. This map almost acts like a campfire and gives the opportunity for the climate researchers and school children to share their stories about local weather and climate where they live. The map also acts as a pedagogic tool where the school children play their way to a better understanding of how climate models work, guided by the climate researcher. The concept has been tested with a couple of hundred school children in different areas in Norway. The presentation will introduce the history of the project, and how the concept has moved from a table-top to floor level. We will also introduce the process that we have tried, tested and adapted in the sessions with 10-12 school children from 8-16 years old.

This project has really shown how climate researchers and artists can collaborate and integrate their different research processes to develop effective communication and dialogue tools.